

Message Text

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12-R
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SUBJECT: ANZUS CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 019641 (PARA 2)

1. NOTES FOR PRESS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS REQUESTED
REFTEL FOLLOW:

2. WHY IS IT NECESSARY FOR THE USA TO CONSTRUCT NAVAL
FACILITIES ON DIEGO GARCIA?

ANSWER: THE NAME OF THE GAME IS "EXPANSION" OF
CURRENT FACILITIES. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS
UPDATING A FACILITIES. WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT IS
UPDATING A FACILITY THAT HAS BEEN USED JOINTLY WITH
THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR SEVERAL YEARS, AND ONE THAT IS
NOW QUITE SIMPLY IN NEED OF MODERNIZATION AND
EXPANSION. DIEGO GARCIA IS NOT BEING CONSIDERED AS
A BASE FOR NAVAL UNITS, BUT AS A LOCATION WHERE SHIPS
AND AIRCRAFT IN THE AREA WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN
EMERGENCY REPAIRS, FUEL AND SUPPLIES. IT MEANS THAT
THIS FACILITY WILL BE USED MORE REGULARLY THAN MORE
DISTANT SERVICING AREAS.

THE EXPANSION WILL ENLARGE THE RANGE OF MAIN-
TENANCE ACTIVITIES, BUNKERING AND FUEL STORAGE. THE
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EXISTING 2400 METER RUNWAY WILL BE LENGTHENED AND THE

LAGOON DEEPENED TO PROVIDE ANCHORAGE. AT MAXIMUM CAPACITY, IT SHOULD PROVIDE ANCHORAGE FOR ABOUT A DOZEN SHIPS AND ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT, BUT WILL NOT HAVE THE CAPACITY FOR MAINTAINING LOGISTICALLY THE CONTINUED OPERATION WOULD BE PRIMARILY FOR SURFACE SHIPS AND WILL PROVIDE NO SPECIAL SUPPORT CAPABILITY FOR SUBMARINES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS FOR MANY YEARS MAINTAINED A NAVAL PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS NOT OUR DESIRE TO ENTER INTO MILITARY COMPETITION WITH ANY POWER. OUR PRESENCE IN THE OCEAN - FOR NEARLY A QUARTER OF A CENTURY - IS NOT ONLY IN THE US NATIONAL INTEREST, BUT ALSO IN THE INTERESTS OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THIS AREA WHICH ARE SO DEPENDENT ON TRANSIT THRU THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR THEIR OIL SHIPMENTS. AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IS A TANGIBLE REMINDER NOW, AS IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST, OF OUR INTEREST IN SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE AREA.

3. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT JUST SIGNED AND HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE PUT IN BY THE USG?

ANSWER: COPIES OF THE AGREEMENT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU ALL. IN BRIEF, AT THE INITIATIVE OF MR. KIRK, DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON LAST YEAR, THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. IT WAS DECIDED TO BUILD ON A LONG RECORD OF CLOSE COOPERATION IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD-I REFER TO THE NEW ZEALAND-UNITED STATES EDUCATION FOUNDATION, ALSO KNOWN AS THE FULBRIGHT FOUNDATION-BY ESTABLISHING CLOSER AND SPECIFIC COOPERATIVE MEASURES IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH. ONE FIELD IN WHICH WE SHARE A COMMON INTEREST, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THE GENERATION OF POWER FROM GEOTHERMAL FIELDS. WE BOTH HAVE EXISTING THERMAL PLANTS. A SHARING OF EXPERIENCE AND RESEARCH HERE IS OBVIOUS. BUT DR. COLIN MAIDEN, WHO HAS BEEN NAMED BY THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT TO DIRECT THE PROGRAM, WILL BE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES IN MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO DISCUSS WITH OUR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SOME SPECIFIC FIELDS OF COOPERATION AND RESEARCH. UNTIL HE HAS COMPLETED THESE TALKS, WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO ANNOUNCE. NOR DO WE HAVE A SPECIFIC SUM OF MONEY IN MIND: BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE RESEARCH PROGRAMS THAT WOULD BENEFIT FROM JOINT EFFORTS, AND WE WILL JOIN IN THESE EFFORTS WHENEVER IT IS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST.

4. DO YOU SUPPORT PM KIRK'S PROPOSAL FOR A NUCLEAR
FREE ZONE IN THE PACIFIC?

ANSWER: SUCH A PROPOSAL HAS NOT BEEN MADE IN ANY
FORMAL WAY OR TO ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY TO THE BEST
OF MY KNOWLEDGE. OUR DEFENSE POSTURE IN
THE PACIFIC UTILIZES AMONG OTHER WEAPONS SYSTEMS
NUCLEAR-POWERED AND NUCLEAR ARMED SUBMARINES, AS
WELL AS NUCLEAR POWERED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND OTHER
SURFACE VESSELS. A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE IN THE PACIFIC
WOULD PRECLUDE THESE WEAPONS SYSTEMS FROM WHAT IS
NOW A RELATIVELY STABLE AREA. WE NEED NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR THE
DEFENSE OF THE PACIFIC.

5. SENATOR HARTKE RECENTLY CRITICIZED THE STATE
DEPARTMENT FOR NOT MAKING MORE CLEARLY KNOWN THE US
POSITION OVER THE CONTINUANCE OF NUCLEAR TESTING BY
FRANCE IN THE PACIFIC MURUROA ATOLL. WHAT ARE YOUR
VIEWS ON THAT?

ANSWER: WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT THAT ALL NATIONS SHOULD
SIGN THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY THAT FORBIDS
ATMOSPHERIC TESTING. THAT INCLUDES THE FRENCH. THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT IS WELL AWARE OF OUR ATTITUDE ON
ATMOSPHERIC TESTING AND ANYTHING THAT MY GOVERNMENT
MIGHT HAVE TO SAY IN PUBLIC WOULD NOT HAVE ADDED TO
THAT KNOWLEDGE.
WOOD

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